

HF Happenings 746



South African Radio League * Suid-Afrikaanse Radioliga
Member Society of the International Amateur Radio Union since 1925

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You can now download your copy of HF Happenings from
www.sarl.org.za/hf_happenings.asp

March

- 3 - World Day of Prayer for Women
- 4 - World day of Prayer for Men
- CTARC Bumper Flea market**
- 5 - SARL Hamnet 40 m Contest**
- 8 to 14 - Scifest Africa, Grahamstown
- 11 and 12 - **SARL VHF/UHF Contest; RSGB Commonwealth Contest**
- 12 - Purim; Cape Town Cycle Tour
- 16 to 20 - Wild Trout Festival, Rhodes
- 17 - St Patrick's Day
- 17 to 19 - Lambert's Bay Kreeffees
- 20 - Autumn Equinox; School holiday
- 21 - Human Right's Day
- 25 and 26 - **CQ WPX SSB Contest**
- 27 - **Closing date Radio ZS April**
- 31 March to 9 April - Stars of Sandstone, Ficksburg
- 31 - All schools close

April

- to 9 April - Stars of Sandstone, Ficksburg
- 1 - **RaDAR Challenge**; April Fools

New amateur radio regulations for Cuba were published on 10 March 2017

The new legal body consists of 17 chapters and 182 articles, which contain the regulations governing radio amateurs in Cuba. It includes an important group of modifications with respect to the previous Regulation, including new authorized bands, extension of the expiration period of Licenses, Capacity Certificates and regulations for the importation of equipment, antennas and other accessories.

Cuba has adopted the approach of listing permitted modes by band with up to 31 Emission Designators specified for some bands. A drawback of attempting to list every possible Emission Designator for each band is that some will inevitably be missed. For example, the new regulations do not appear to include the F7W and FXE designators for D-STAR and DMR.

Cuba has three classes of license - 1st Class - Prefix CO - 2 000 watts max; 2nd Class - Prefix CM - 100 watts max and 3rd Class - prefix CL - 10 watts max

1 April is Portugal's National Summits on the Air Day

All radio amateurs are invited to participate in Portugal's National SOTA Day, on 1 April, an event that is meant to both highlight and encourage participation on the Summits on The Air program. The 'party-on-the-air' is also meant to celebrate SOTA - Portugal's sixth year in activity, started precisely on this day, in 2011.

Long time and current participants, as well as amateur radio clubs, are particularly encouraged to invite other amateur operator's to tag along their planned activities in order to increase the program's awareness. Diplomas (electronically sent) will be available to activators, chasers and SWL registered on SOTA's Database and after the upload of their day's logs.



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No other rules apply other than the Summits on The Air own set of procedures. This is not a contest, just another way of enjoying and celebrating SOTA's unique pleasure of amateur radio activity. Pedro Carvalho, CT1DBS/CU3HF is the "point man" on this event and all queries regarding Portugal's National SOTA Day 2017 should be sent to his email (lookup QRZ.COM) or diasotaCT@gmail.com

DXCC News

The ARRL DXCC Desk has approved the 2016 November operation by E44CM from Palestine for DXCC credit.

Mills on the Air

So far, 13 Mills have registered for the weekend of fun on 13 and 14 May. Most are British, two in Holland, another from Belgium and the first ever in its decade-long history is a mill in Australia.



historic-mills

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_windmills_in_South_Africa)

[List of windmills in South Africa](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_windmills_in_South_Africa)

<http://blog.sa-venues.com/provinces/western-cape/windmills-in-south-africa/>

The picture on the right depicts a wind pump (in Afrikaans 'n windpomp). It is not a windmill - it pumps water from deep underground. The picture above is a windmill.



Here in South Africa, we

have a number of mills – I am aware of four in the greater Cape Town area and a number in the Eastern Cape around Grahamstown and Bathurst.

<http://www.theheritageportal.co.za/article/millbank-closest-historic-mill-johannesburg>

<http://www.theheritageportal.co.za/article-categories/historic-mills>

<http://www.countrylife.co.za/heritage/restoring-historic-mills>



Hearing Loss

Researchers believe that not all hearing loss types may be detectable with standard hearing tests. One type of deficit thought to be caused by exposure to loud noise is indicated by difficulty understanding conversations taking place in noisy environments. The conjecture is that loud noise can degrade the ability of a portion of the auditory nerves to deliver enough information to the brain. <http://www.cbsnews.com/news/loud-noise-hearing-loss-hidden-cause/>

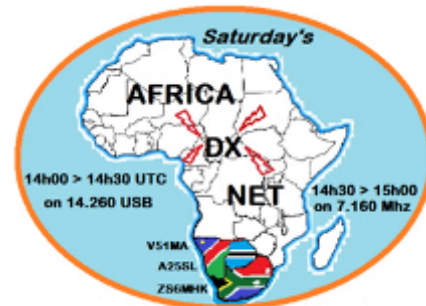
Sitting in front of a computer with headphones on for extended periods, with a steady intake of caffeine and snacks, has proven to be hazardous for computer gamers, too.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/03/15/technology/personaltech/live-streaming-gaming-death.html?emc=eta1>.

Question and Answer on OQRS

Obtaining QSL cards has been made so much easier and more efficient by Online QSL Request Systems set up by the DX stations or their QSL Managers, that it's hard to imagine why any DX station would choose to **not** use OQRS. Online QSL Request Systems eliminate physical paperwork aspects of requesting QSLs from DX stations by replacing it with a web-based form. MOURX operates one OQRS System and has put together a Question and Answer page about how his system works. <http://www.mOurx.com/3-MOURX/715-oqrs-q-a.html>

African DX



Day

6 - van Riebeeck Day; **SARL 80 m QSO Party**

8 - **Autumn QRP Sprint**

8 to 15 Klein-Karoo Nasionale Kunstefees

11 to 17 - Pesach

13 - Holy Thursday

14 - Good Friday

14 to 16 - Slow festival, Sedgefield

15 - **RAE Registration closes**; Two Oceans Marathon

16 - Easter Sunday

17 - Family Day

18 - **World Amateur Radio Day**; All Schools open

21 to 29 joBerg2C

22 - SARL Noise Floor Workshop

23 - **ZS4 Sprint**

24 - Isra and Mi'raj; **Closing date for articles for the May Radio ZS**

24 to 30 - AfrikaBurn, Tankwa Karoo

27 - Freedom Day

27 to 30 - Karoo Food Festival, Cradock

28 - School Holiday

28 and 29 Prince Albert Town and Olive Festival

29 and 30 - Haenertsburg Food, Wine and Beer Festival; Pringle Bay Village Festival

30 - Knysna Motor Show

Word to the Wise

Stochastic - adjective: being able to be described statistically, but not precisely. In the context of contesting, run rates are stochastic. If the rate is 60 QSOs per hour, contacts do not occur each minute - there are bursts and dry spells.

Testing a hamfest find

Testing a hamfest find before you buy it could be made easier with this project for a pocket-sized variable power supply capable of powering a wide range of battery-powered devices <http://makezine.com/projects/pocket-sized-power-supply/>.

Operating Tip

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South Africa, ZS. The call sign of the SA Armour Museum, ZS4AFV (Armoured Fighting Vehicle) will be active on HF during the Stars of Sandstone 2017 event from 30 March to 9 April 2017. Activity will be on phone and RTTY (maybe some other digital modes as well) and the station on the air when Dennis, ZS4BS, is not involved with the morning military vehicle drive or the afternoon "Sound of Thunder" mobility demonstration. QSL via ZS4BS, a special QSL card will be available for QSL cards received.

The Stars of Sandstone event takes place on the Sandstone Estate about 14 km north of Ficksburg on the R26 to Fouriesburg and Bethlehem.

<http://www.starsofsandstone.com/>

http://starsofsandstone.com/images/pdf/Newsletters/Sandstone_NL15_build_FINAL.pdf

<http://www.starsofsandstone.com/images/pdf/>

[Stars_of_Sandstone_Illustrated_Rail_Programme2017.pdf](http://www.starsofsandstone.com/images/pdf/Stars_of_Sandstone_Illustrated_Rail_Programme2017.pdf)

<http://www.starsofsandstone.com/images/pdf/>

[Stars_of_Sandstone_illustrated_Event_Programme_2017.pdf](http://www.starsofsandstone.com/images/pdf/Stars_of_Sandstone_illustrated_Event_Programme_2017.pdf)

Botswana, A2. A UK Team will be active as A25UK from Botswana between 25 April and 6 May. Operators mentioned are Nobby, G0VJG, Dave, G4BUO, Nick, G4FAL, Graham, G4FNL, Tony, G4LDL, YL Glenys, G8KWD, Guy, G0UKN, Martin, M0MDR, Toby, M0TBS, and Giles, M0TGV. Activity will be on 160 to 6 meters using CW, SSB, RTTY and PSK. Suggested frequencies are available as a PDF file per the following languages (EN, IT, ES, FR, DE, JA, RU) at <http://www.a25uk.com/2017-2#mhz>. QSL via M0OXO or via ClubLog's OQRS. Also, visit their new web page at <http://www.a25uk.com>

African Islands

IOTA frequencies

CW: 28 040 24 920 21 040 18 098 14 040 10 114 7 030 3 530 kHz

SSB: 28 560 28 460 24 950 21 260 18 128 14 260 7 055 3 760 kHz

Chagos Islands, VQ917. Jim, ND9M (VQ96JC), from Diego Garcia Island (AF-006) informs OPDX on 14 March, "Well, the local licensing office came through for me again. The VQ917JC license I asked for just came through here this afternoon." So start looking for Jim to be on the air signing as VQ917JC. Jim told OPDX he would not make an effort on 60 m at this time. His operating hours are still limited to 12:00 – 16:00 UTC max, which does not do much good for the NA/SA ops. He states that he will probably focus on 30, 20 and 17 meters just to get VQ9 into some logs. Jim also mentioned he did bring his satellite equipment. QSL via his home call sign. Look for more details to be forthcoming.

Canary Islands, ED8. Alvaro, EA8JR, Jorge, EA8TL and Manuel, EA8DO, will be active as ED8W from La Palma Island (AF-004) during the CQ WW WPX SSB Contest (25 and 26 March) Multi-Op entry. QSL via EA8DO or LoTW.

Side-mounting an antenna

Side-mounting an antenna to an existing tower can be a way to get another antenna off the ground without adding a new tower. Last year VE3VN published a review of various techniques for side-mounting beams <http://ve3vn.blogspot.com/2016/02/side-mounting-yagis.html>. KF7P Metalworks has a design that works with many Rohn towers and can handle up to 100 pounds http://www.kf7p.com/KF7P/Antenna_Standoff_Arm.html. Paul, K7PN, is also known for providing custom side mounts for rotators and beams <http://custommetalworks.com/>. Texas Towers represents Rohn and WA9IIX side mount products.

K3 AGC White Paper



AI, W6LX, has put together a K3 AGC White Paper (PDF) describing how the AGC system on the Elecraft K3 works and how changes in various settings affect the AGC <https://www.dropbox.com/s/drufjupqr4pcet3/Getting%20the%20Most%20Out%20of%20K3%20AGC%20System.pdf?dl=0>.

StackMatch

Sometime ago, mention was made of using a StackMatch device to combine multiple antennas on a tower <https://www.arrayolutions.com/stackmatch-general-information>. Jay, WX0B, writes, "It's amusing how a name I coined for Stacking antennas has migrated into a commonly used term. The first one was sold 27 years ago. I also wrote an article in the NCJ

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Helping with the Exchange.

Helping a station through a contest exchange during a phone contest is a courteous thing to do and at slow times may not damage your rate. Why not also invest in a faster rate for future CW or RTTY contests by noting calls that are sending non-standard or inefficient exchanges and following up with a polite email *outside of the contest* with suggestions on how to improve their exchange for the next time. Newer contesters may just be using the default messages included with their logging program, which can sometimes stand improvement.

Radiation from USB 3 devices

USB 3.0 devices and cables have the possibility of radiating across a wide range of frequencies from LF to beyond 7,5 GHz. This Intel paper discusses the specific case of USB 3.0 interference to 2,4 GHz band devices, but contains information on USB 3.0 radiation characteristics and potential ways to mitigate that radiation. <http://www.intel.com/content/www/us/en/io/universal-serial-bus/usb3-frequency-interference-paper.html>

Contest Calendar

This week's contests as compiled by Bruce Horn, WA7BNM. The period covered is 20 to 27 March 2017

CLARA Chatter Party

17:00 UTC 21 March to 17:00 UTC 22 March and 17:00 UTC 25 March to 17:00 UTC 26 March

Geographic Focus: Worldwide

Participation: Worldwide

Mode: CW, Phone

Bands: 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, 2m

Classes: Single Op - low or high

Max operating hours: 24

Max power: HP: >200 W; LP: 200 W

Exchange: RS(T), name and state, province or country

Work stations: Once per band per mode

QSO Points: 10 points per QSO with CLARA member; 5 points per QSO with CLARA family member; 5 points per QSO with non-member YL; 1 point per QSO with OM

Multipliers: Each VE province/territory once per band per mode; Each US state (must be YL QSO) once per band per mode; Each DXCC country (must be YL QSO) once per band per mode

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 16 April 2017

E-mail logs to: ve9glf@nbnet.nb.ca

Mail logs to: Linda Friars, VE9GLF, 35 Upper Quaco Road, Baxter Corner, NB E2S 2S2, Canada

Find rules at: <http://www.clarayl.ca/index.php/claracontestrules>

SKCC Sprint

00:00 - 02:00 UTC 22 March

Geographic Focus: Worldwide

Participation: Worldwide

Awards: Worldwide

Mode: CW

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10m

Classes: (none)

Exchange: RST, state, province or country, name and SKCC no or power

Work stations: Once per band

QSO Points: 1 point per QSO; Bonus Points: 5 points per Centurion member QSO per band; 10 points per Tribune member QSO per band; 25 points per QSO with SKCC club call (K9SKC) per band

Multipliers: Each state, province or country once

Score Calculation: Total score = (total QSO points x total mults) and bonus points

Submit logs by: 23:59 UTC 24 March 2017

E-mail log summary to: (none)

Post log summary at: http://www.skccgroup.com/operating_activities/weekday_sprint/submit-display.php

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at: http://www.skccgroup.com/operating_activities/weekday_sprint/

QRP Fox Hunt

01:00 - 02:30 UTC 22 March

Geographic Focus: United States

Participation: Worldwide

Mode: CW

Bands: 40m Only

Classes: Single Op - fox or hound

Max power: 5 watts

Exchange: RST, state, province or country, name and power output

QSO Points: 1 point per QSO

Multipliers: (none)

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points

Submit logs by: 02:30 UTC 23 March 2017

E-mail logs to: (see rules)

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at: http://www.qrpfoxhunt.org/winter_rules.htm

Phone Fray

02:30 - 03:00 UTC 22 March

Geographic Focus: North America

Participation: Worldwide

Mode: SSB

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15 m

Classes: Single Op

Max power: 100 watts

Exchange: NA: Name and state, province or country; non-NA: Name

Work stations: Once per band

QSO Points: NA station: 1 point per QSO; non-NA station: 1 point per QSO with an NA station

Multipliers: Each US state (including KH6/KL7) once per band; Each VE province/territory once per band; Each North American country (except W/VE) once per band

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 03:00 UTC 24 March 2017

E-mail logs to: (none)

Post log summary at: <http://www.3830scores.com>

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at: http://www.perluma.com/Phone_Fray_Contest_Rules.pdf

CWops Mini-CWT Test

13:00 - 14:00 UTC and 19:00 - 20:00 UTC 22 March and 03:00 - 04:00 UTC 23 March

Geographic Focus: Worldwide

Participation: Worldwide

Awards: Worldwide

Mode: CW

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m

Classes: Single Op - QRP, low or high

Max power: HP: >100 watts; LP: 100 watts; QRP: 5 watts

Exchange: Member: Name and member no; non-Member: Name and state, province or country

Work stations: Once per band

QSO Points: 1 point per QSO

Multipliers: Each call once

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 04:00 UTC 25 March 2017

Post log summary at: <http://www.3830scores.com>

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at: <http://www.cwops.org/cwt.html>

RSGB 80 m Club Championship, SSB

20:00 - 21:30 UTC 23 March

Geographic Focus: United Kingdom

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Participation: Worldwide

Awards: United Kingdom

Mode: SSB

Bands: 80 m Only

Classes: (none)

Exchange: RS and serial no

QSO Points: 1 point per QSO

Multipliers: (none)

Score Calculation: (see rules)

Submit logs by: 23:59 UTC 24 March 2017

Upload log at: <http://www.rsgbcc.org/cgi-bin/hfenter.pl>

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at: <http://www.rsgbcc.org/hf/rules/2017/r80mcc.shtml>

QRP Fox Hunt

01:00 - 02:30 UTC 24 March

Geographic Focus: United States

Participation: Worldwide

Mode: CW

Bands: 80 m Only

Classes: Single Op - fox or hound

Max power: 5 watts

Exchange: RST, state, province or country, name and power output

QSO Points: 1 point per QSO

Multipliers: (none)

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points

Submit logs by: 02:30 UTC 25 March 2017

E-mail logs to: (see rules)

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at: http://www.qrpfoxhunt.org/winter_rules.htm

NCCC RTTY Sprint

01:45 - 02:15 UTC 24 March

Geographic Focus: North America

Participation: Worldwide

Mode: RTTY

Bands: (see rules)

Classes: (none)

Exchange: Serial no, name and QTH

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 26 March 2017

E-mail logs to: (none)

Post log summary at: <http://www.3830scores.com/>

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at: <http://www.ncccsprint.com/rttyns.html>

NCCC Sprint

02:30 - 03:00 UTC 24 March

Geographic Focus: North America

Participation: Worldwide

Mode: CW

Bands: (see rules)

Classes: (none)

Exchange: Serial no, name and QTH

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 26 March 2017

E-mail logs to: (none)

Post log summary at: <http://www.3830scores.com/>

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at: <http://www.ncccsprint.com/rules.html>

CQ WW WPX SSB Contest

00:00 UTC 25 March to 23:59 UTC 26 March

Geographic Focus: Worldwide

Participation: Worldwide

Awards: Worldwide

Mode: SSB

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m

Classes: Single Op All Band - QRP, low or high - tribander or rookie; Single Op Single Band - QRP, low or high - tribander or rookie; Single Op Assisted All Band - QRP, low or high - tribander or rookie; Single Op Assisted Single Band - QRP, low or high - tribander or rookie; Multi-Single - low or high; Multi-Two; Multi-Multi

Max operating hours: Single Op: 36 hours with off times of at least 60 minutes; Multi-Op: 48 hours

Max power: HP: 1 500 watts; LP: 100 watts; QRP: 5 watts

Exchange: RS and serial no

Work stations: Once per band

QSO Points: 6 points per 160, 80 and 40 m QSO with different continent; 3 points per 20, 15 and 10 m QSO with different continent; 2 points per 160, 80 and 40 m QSO with same continent different country; 1 point per 20, 15 and 10 m QSO with same continent different country; 4 points per 160, 80 and 40 m QSO between stations in NA, different country; 2 points per 20, 15 and 10 m QSO between stations in NA, different country; 1 point per QSO with same country

Multipliers: Prefixes once

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 23:59 UTC 31 March 2017

E-mail logs to: ssb@cqwpx.com

Upload log at: <http://www.cqwpx.com/logcheck/>

Mail logs to: SSB WPX Contest, PO Box 481, New Carlisle, OH 45344, USA

Find rules at: <http://www.cqwpx.com/rules.htm>

FOC QSO Party

00:00 - 23:59 UTC 25 March

Geographic Focus: Worldwide

Participation: Worldwide

Mode: CW

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, VHF

Classes: Single Op

Exchange: FOC-Member: RST, name and member no; non-

Members: RST and name

Work stations: Once per band

QSO Points: 1 point per QSO

Multipliers: (none)

Score Calculation: FOC-Member: Score = Total QSOs/Total

Member QSOs; non-Member: Score = Total Member QSOs

Submit logs by: 8 April 2017

E-mail log summary to: kz5d@aol.com

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at: <http://g4foc.org/qsoparty/>

UBA Spring 6 m Contest

06:00 - 10:00 UTC 26 March

Geographic Focus: Belgium

Participation: Worldwide

Mode: CW, Phone

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Bands: 6 m Only

Classes: Single; SWL

Max power: non-QRP: >5 watts; QRP: 5 watts

Exchange: ON: RS(T), serial no and UBA Section; non-ON: RS (T) and serial no

QSO Points: 3 points per QSO with Belgian station

Multipliers: Each UBA Section

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 9 April 2017

E-mail logs to: ubaspring@uba.be

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at: <http://www.uba.be/hf/contest-rules/spring-contest>

Next Week's Contests

QRP Fox Hunt, 01:00 - 02:30 UTC 29 March

Phone Fray, 02:30 - 03:00 UTC 29 March

CWops Mini-CWT Test, 13:00 - 14:00 UTC and 19:00 - 20:00

UTC 29 March and 03:00 - 04:00 UTC 30 March

UKEICC 80 m Contest, 20:00 - 2100Z 29 March

QRP Fox Hunt, 01:00 - 02:30 UTC 31 March

NCCC RTTY Sprint, 01:45 - 02:15 UTC 31 March

NCCC Sprint, 02:30 - 03:00 UTC 31 March

15-Meter SSTV Dash Contest, 00:00 UTC 1 April to 23:59 UTC 2 April

LZ Open 40 m Sprint Contest, 04:00 - 08:00 UTC 1 April

PODXS 070 Club PSK 31 Flavours Contest, 10:00 UTC 1 April to 04:00 UTC 2 April

Mississippi QSO Party, 14:00 UTC 1 April to 02:00 UTC 2 April

Missouri QSO Party, 14:00 UTC 1 April to 04:00 UTC and 14:00 UTC-20:00 UTC 2 April

SP DX Contest, 15:00 UTC 1 April to 15:00 UTC 2 April

EA RTTY Contest, 16:00 UTC 1 April to 16:00 UTC 2 April

North American SSB Sprint Contest, 00:00 - 04:00 UTC 2 April

RSGB RoLo SSB, 19:00 - 20:30 UTC 2 April

RSGB 80 m Club Championship, CW, 19:00 - 20:30Z 3 April

ARS Spartan Sprint, 01:00 - 03:00 UTC 4 April

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about using the first ones for my stacks. That's what actually started Array Solutions, it was the first product and demand for it came from the *NCJ* article."

What is regarded as a Lighthouse for the International Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend event?

Lighthouse: Generally regarded as a structure which is or has been listed officially as an aid to navigation in a recognized publication such as the British Admiralty List of Light and Foghorns and which falls into the classic concept of a lighthouse. For example, a substantial tower having an internal staircase, a revolving Fresnel lens and had or has a designated lighthouse keeper. Also permitted are lighthouses which have been moved to a museum for historic reasons.

But, the fact that a light has been listed in official documents such as the "British Admiralty List of Lights and Foghorns", the "USCG Light List" or the "NGA List of Lights, Radio Aids and Fog Signals" and for example, on the ARLHS list of lights, does not automatically qualify the structure for this event. Such lights as range lights, channel markers, skeletal towers and break wall lights will probably not be accepted. Examples of some lights which have been submitted for the event, but which have been rejected can be seen on <https://illw.net/index.php/rejects.html>.

Remember, the operation from faux or false lighthouses, lights on poles, lights that no longer exist, etc. is discouraged as they are not within the spirit of the event.

Visit www.illw.net to register your participation in the 2017 event.



HF Happenings

Items used with acknowledgement to the ARRL Letter, the ARRL DX News, the ARRL Contest Update, OPDX Bulletin, 425 DX Bulletin, DXNL Newsletter, WIA-News, the RSGB News, DxCoffee, Southgate ARC News, DX World and the Amateur Radio Newsletter